WATCHDOG TIMER FOR MICROCONTROLLER

Abstract of the Disclosure

A method for operating a watchdog timer associated with a microcontroller that generates refresh commands for the watchdog timer is provided. The refresh commands are separated by a time interval within a predetermined range. The method includes receiving the refresh commands by the watchdog timer, and generating a microcontroller reset command by the watchdog timer when a time interval separating successively received refresh commands is not within the predetermined range. In particular, the generating includes staring a refresh countdown on each receipt of a refresh command by the watchdog timer. A reset countdown is started if the refresh countdown has timed out, and if the refresh countdown has not timed out when a next refresh command is received, then the next refresh command does not restart the reset countdown. The microcontroller reset command is generated if the reset countdown has timed out.